



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Salmon-Challis
National Forest
Challis-Yankee Fork
Ranger District

HC 63 Box 1669, Hwy 93 N
Challis, ID 83226
208 879-4100 fax 208 879-4199

File Code: 2230

Date: April 1, 2011

Maureen Betscher
HC 62 Box 2290
May, ID 83253

Dear Maureen:

This letter will serve as your 2011 Annual Operating Instructions for the Sulphur Creek C&H and Pahsimeroi C&H Allotment and should be considered an extension of your Sulphur Creek and Pahsimeroi C&H Term Grazing Permit. Grazing fees for this year are \$1.35 per head month.

Ia. Permitted Use: Sulphur Creek Allotment

Permittee / Permit #	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Robert Whitworth - #20034	102 Cow/Calf	Term	6/01 – 10/05	426
Circle Pi Ranch- #20024	150 Cow/Calf	Term	6/01 – 10/05	626

Ib. Permitted Use: Pahsimeroi Allotment

Permittee	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Circle Pi Ranches	400 Cow/Calf	Term	6/06 – 9/28	1512
Robert Whitworth	274	Term	6/06 – 9/28	1036

Iia. Authorized Use for 2011 for Sulphur Creek Allotment

Permittee	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Robert Whitworth	102	Term	6/1 – 10/05	426
Circle Pi Ranch LLC	150	Term	6/1 – 10/05	626



IIb. Authorized Use for 2011 for Pahsimeroi Allotment

Permittee	No. and Class	Permit Type	Season of Use	Head Months
Circle Pi Ranches*	100 yearlings 50 Cow / Calf	Term	6/06 – 9/28	565
Bob Whitworth	274 Cow/Calf	Term	6/06 – 9/28	1036

IIa. Pasture Rotation Sulphur Creek Allotment

Pasture	Numbers	Season
Camp Creek	102 Whitworth / 150 Circle Pi	8/2 – 10/05
Trail Creek	Rest	Rest
Sulphur Creek	102 Whitworth / 150 Circle Pi	6/1 – 8/01

II b. Pasture Rotation for Pahsimeroi Allotment

Pasture	Numbers	Season
Christian Gulch / Upper Road Unit	274 Cow / Calf	06/06 – 06/16 Whitworth
Mahogany Uplands	100 yearlings 50 Cow / Calf	06/6 – 06/16 -7/25-8-10 Circle Pi
Spring Hill Uplands	100 yearlings 50 Cow / Calf -274 Cow / Calf	8/11-9/7 Circle Pi 8/1-9/7 Whitworth
Spring Hill Flats	274 Cow / Calf	9/8-10/5 Whitworth
Upper Road	274 Cow / Calf - 100 yearlings 50 Cow / Calf	7/9-8/1 Whitworth 9/8-10/5 Circle Pi
Lower Road	274 Cow / Calf	6/17-7/8 Whitworth

III. Use Indicators for Sulphur Creek and Pahsimeroi Allotment

Pasture	Uplands	Riparian Areas	Bank Alteration	Browse Use
Camp Creek (Sulphur)	$\leq 50\%$	50% non-hydric grasses 4" sedges and rushes	$\leq 20\%$	$\leq 50\%$
Trail Creek (Sulphur)	$\leq 50\%$	50% non-hydric grasses 4" sedges and rushes	$\leq 20\%$	$\leq 50\%$
Christian Gulch (Pahsimeroi)	$\leq 50\%$	50% non-hydric grasses 4" sedges and rushes	NA	$\leq 50\%$
Mahogany Uplands(Pahsimeroi)	$\leq 50\%$	50% non-hydric grasses 4" sedges and rushes	NA	$\leq 50\%$
Lower Road (Pahsimeroi)	$\leq 50\%$	50% non-hydric grasses 4" sedges and rushes	NA	$\leq 50\%$
Upper Road (Pahsimeroi)	$\leq 50\%$	50% non-hydric grasses 4" sedges and rushes	NA	$\leq 50\%$
Spring Hill Uplands (Pahsimeroi)	$\leq 50\%$	50% non-hydric grasses 4" sedges and rushes	NA	$\leq 50\%$
Spring Hill Flats (Pahsimeroi)	$\leq 50\%$	50% non-hydric grasses 4" sedges and rushes	NA	$\leq 50\%$

The move-on date is only a guide since the on-date will be when range readiness occurs. Move dates should be when forage utilization indicates that the move needs to take place.

IV. Utilization Guidelines

1. Utilization of herbaceous forage will not exceed 50% current growth on upland sites.
2. Riparian areas should retain a minimum of 4" of stubble height on hydric sedges and rushes and no more than 50% utilization on all non-hydric grasses by the end of the growing season.
3. Woody browse use will not exceed 50% of new leader production (willows and/or aspen).
4. End of season bank alteration will not exceed 20%.

V. Permittee Management Responsibilities

1. **Do not wait for the Forest Officer to tell you it is time to move. It is the Permittee's responsibility to insure livestock are moved before utilization levels are exceeded and to notify forest officers of this move.**
2. Distribute cattle over the entire pasture. Make a concerted effort to use all grazeable areas in a pasture. Please realize that it is in your best interest to keep cattle distributed throughout the pasture being used. Cattle will be moved out of a pasture when forage utilization in riparian and/or upland areas is at grazing standards.
3. If cattle are allowed to concentrate in riparian areas and/or water developments without being pushed to unused areas, the grazing capacity of the pasture is diminished to those riparian areas only. **Use of riparian areas need to be carefully monitored.** Range personnel will monitor forage use in areas where cattle concentrate.
4. **The move-off date is the date you must have all cattle off the grazing Allotment, not the day to start moving cattle off the Allotment.**
5. If you move onto the Allotment late and want to stay past your move-off date, then you must make arrangements earlier in the grazing season and obtain prior approval from the District Ranger or authorized officer.
6. Place salt in areas where past and/or present forage use is light. Salt should be used to spread utilization across the pasture being grazed. Place salt at least ¼ mile from riparian areas. Salt should be picked up and moved when an area has been sufficiently used. Do not place salt in the same footprint areas used last year. Contact the Range Specialist if you need suggestions. The Permittee is responsible for using water and salt to achieve the best distribution of cattle throughout the pasture.
7. Any carcass or animal remains will be moved at least 100 yards from water, trails, and roads within 24 hours of notification by Range Specialists. Animal carcasses in highly visible areas need to be relocated to more remote areas.

8. Any plans to reconstruct or build new improvements on the Forest should first be coordinated with the Range Specialist. Improvements are listed in your grazing permit and are shown on the Allotment map.
9. A Forest Weed Free Hay Special Order #04-00-097 is in effect as of February 11, 2003; "Possessing, storing, or transporting, non-pelletized hay, straw or mulch on National Forest System Lands without having each individual bale or container tagged or marked as weed free, or having original and current evidence of weed free certification documentation present. All markings must meet the State and/or county standards for certification as weed free".
10. Please notify the Range Specialist, Barry Dopp at 208-879-4100 before cattle are turned on the Forest.

The following conservation measures for the Pahsimeroi Allotment Biological Assessment written by the USFS on May 26, 2010 will be followed by the Permittee:

Several years ago, livestock grazing was discontinued in the Mahogany Creek Unit which includes the entire Mahogany Creek drainage in order to protect and restore the bull trout population and bull trout habitat within Mahogany Creek. This action is being continued as part of the current proposed action. Grazing will not resume in the Mahogany Creek Unit prior to a new biological assessment being prepared.

VI. Range Improvements Maintenance/Construction

Range improvements that will need to be inspected and repaired; and are necessary to manage and control livestock for the 2011 grazing season are the following:

1. Maintain fences in the pastures, listed under Table III of this document, as well as the boundary fences that are Sulphur Creek and Pahsimeroi Permittee's responsibility with adjacent Allotments.
2. No ground disturbing activities should be conducted on the Forest by the Permittee or their personnel without approval from the Range Specialist or other specialist as assigned by the District Ranger. Under the Cultural Resource Settlement, costs to correct a damaged cultural site will be billed to the person who caused the damage. Ground disturbances can no longer be permitted, accepted, or allowed to occur on National Forest lands without proper clearance.

Materials for replacement and heavy maintenance will be provided to the Permittee by the Forest Service. General maintenance is the responsibility of the Permittee.

VII. Billing Information

- Grazing fees must be paid to **USDA Forest Service, C/o Citibank, P.O. Box 301550, Los Angeles, CA 90030-1550** by the date specified on the Bill for Collection and in advance of livestock entry onto the Salmon-Challis National Forest. Grazing fees must be paid before livestock can be turned onto the Forest.

VIII. Special Considerations for the 2011-Grazing Season

1. If drought conditions persist, you may be asked to remove livestock from the Forest earlier than normal this year if water and/or forage are limited.
2. Because of increasing public use, gates are often left open and cattle stray into the wrong pasture. We realize this is a problem and an inconvenience to the Permittee. However, it is still the **Permittee's** responsibility to keep their animals in the proper unit. Cattle found in wrong pastures should be removed and returned immediately to the correct pasture after notification by phone or letter. Early use or repeated use of grazing units could result in an early move-off date. Routine checks need to be made by you and your rider. This is a requirement of your term grazing permit.
3. **Installing small wildlife escape ramps has been a point of emphasis for the last few years on all troughs in the operating instructions. This year, all working large troughs (500 gallon +) will be expected to have two ramps installed by the end of the grazing season. Failure to install ramps can be a point for non-compliance for the 2009-grazing season.** The ramps may be obtained at the Challis-Yankee Fork Ranger District. Please contact the Range Management Specialist to arrange for pickup.
4. Range improvements will be checked and maintained **before cattle enter a pasture or the allotment**, they should be kept to a standard of repair, which is functional, safe, and acceptable to the Forest Service. **Failure to complete necessary maintenance may result in the initiation of permit suspension or cancellation procedures in whole or in part.**

Range inspections may occur several times during the grazing season to check maintenance of range improvements, forage utilization, and compliance with the grazing rotation and standard requirements. You are invited to participate in inspections conducted on the Allotment. We will try to contact you a few days in advance to let you know when we will be looking at your Allotment.

Enclosed is a Year End Grazing Report for you to record Actual Use (2011) data and range improvement needs future grazing season. You need to record the date and number of cattle turned onto the Allotment, the dates the cattle are moved to and from each pasture, and the number and date cattle are removed from the Allotment. Accurate records of these dates, maintenance work, and range improvement needs should be kept and returned to our office at the end of the grazing season. The Forest Service uses these records to help allocate Range Betterment Funds. These funds are used to purchase materials for improvement.

If you have any questions concerning these Annual Operating Instructions, please call Barry Dopp, Range Management Specialist, or myself at 208-879-4100. Prior approval by the District Ranger is required to amend or change these instructions. We are looking forward to a productive and successful grazing season.

Sincerely,

KRIS MARTINSON

District Ranger

Enclosures

cc: Carren Morgan, Challis BLM: 801 Blue Mtn. Road, Challis, ID 83226